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16 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: General Purpose Time Sequence Camera

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1. A conference was held on 12 September 1958 to consider the plans for the five pre-production, time-sequence cameras to be built by [redacted] * Present were [redacted] The following decisions were arrived at.

2. The cameras are to be of the pulse type.

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3. The batteries are to be nickel-cadmium. The weight of each battery is to be not over 25 pounds, and as many batteries will be provided as are necessary to operate 1000 feet of film. No other component than the battery will be included in any battery container.

4. The cameras will expose a single frame for a short pulse and a continuous succession of frames for a continuous pulse.

5. Two magazines each for 100 feet, 400 feet, and 1000 feet of film will be provided for each camera. In addition, three extra magazines of each film capacity will be furnished for the lot of five cameras.

6. The instruction manual will be improved.

7. Consideration will be given to the matter of special tools required to disassemble the camera. An effort will be made to have as few kinds and as simple tools as possible.

* These cameras are consequent to the prototype, which has been examined in TSS. The work is being done under APD project No. P-125D, Camera, Time Sequence, 35 mm, General Purpose.


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8. Means will be provided for the inactivation, when desired, of that feature of the shutter which adjusts the length of exposure.
9. An external, reflex viewing and focusing housing will be provided for lenses of 135 mm. and longer focal length, regardless of the type of lens mount.
10. An effort will be made to provide the cameras with mountings for standard Leica lenses. (These have screw mounts.)
11. Only one lens (of 50 mm. focal length) is to be supplied with each camera.
12. Consideration is to be given to providing for two speeds of rotation of the shutter assembly, with the object of providing for exposure times as long as 1/4 second.
13. The cameras will be made tamper-proof either by taking off the adjustment knobs or by fastening a plate over them.
14. The noise of operation will be reduced to the greatest feasible extent.
15. Standard settings of the shutter control will be chosen to adapt the speed of the camera to films of various sensitivities.
16. It will not be possible to provide any internal reflex focusing means.
17. It will not be possible to expose more than one frame per second.
18. Further consideration is to be given to means for ascertaining the state of charge of the nickel-cadmium batteries.
19. A time record is desirable on the film. This is to be provided by photographing a suitable watch or time counter.
20. No ground glass focusing is to be provided.
21. If means for holding the shutter open exist on the camera which has already been delivered, they will be incorporated in the five pre-production cameras. If there are no means for holding the shutter open, none will be provided.

22. The present estimate is that it will take no more time, and will cost a few thousand dollars less, to make the five pre-production cameras as outlined above then it would to make them along the lines of the prototype, modified to correct the various defects which are inevitable in a prototype. Operation of the camera according to a time-sequence program can be effected with the aid of an intervalometer which is now under contract and of which ten examples will be delivered at about the same date as the five cameras.


TSS Technical Advisory Group

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